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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system for executing
5 and processing data in an object oriented environment,
said method comprising the data processing system
implemented steps of:
- defining a base class and a subclass within an
object, said object defined within said object oriented
10 environment;
- defining an attribute within said subclass; and
storing, within said base class, attribute data
defined for said attribute, wherein said attribute data
is not stored within said subclass.
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2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising
the step of storing only within said base class said
attribute data for said attribute.
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3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising
the steps of:
- defining a storage attribute within said base class;
and
storing within storage attribute said attribute
25 data.
4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising
the steps of:
- defining a second subclass, wherein said subclass is
30 a superclass to said second subclass;
- defining a second attribute within said second
subclass; and

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storing within said base class second attribute data for said second attribute, wherein said second attribute data is not stored within said second subclass or said subclass.

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5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

defining a storage attribute within said base class; and

10 storing within storage attribute said attribute data and said second attribute data.

6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

15 defining a first index for and associating it with said attribute;

defining a second index for and associating it with said second attribute;

20 storing within said storage attribute said attribute data with said first index; and

storing within said storage attribute said second attribute data with said second index.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

25 defining an index for and associating it with said attribute; and

storing within said base class said attribute data for said attribute with said index.

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8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

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defining a method that needs to act on all attribute data of an object; and

defining said method only for said base class, wherein said method acts on attribute data stored in said storage attribute.

9. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

defining a write object method to write all object attribute data; and

defining said method only for said base class, wherein said method will write all data stored in said storage attribute.

10. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

defining a method that needs to act on all attribute data of an object; and

defining said method only for said base class, wherein said method acts on said attribute data.

11. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of defining said base class within said object, said base class being a superclass of said object.

12. A data processing system for executing and processing data in an object oriented environment, said object oriented environment comprising:

a base class and a subclass defined within an object, said object defined within said object oriented environment;

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an attribute defined within said subclass; and
said base class for storing attribute data defined
for said attribute, wherein said attribute data is not
stored within said subclass.

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13. The system according to claim 12, further comprising
said attribute data being stored only within said base
class.

10 14. The system according to claim 12, further
comprising:

a storage attribute within said base class; and
storage attribute for storing said attribute data.

15 15. The system according to claim 12, further
comprising:

a second subclass, wherein said subclass is a
superclass to said second subclass;

20 a second attribute within said second subclass; and
said base class for storing second attribute data
for said second attribute, wherein said second attribute
data is not stored within said second subclass or said
subclass.

25 16. The system according to claim 15, further
comprising:

a storage attribute within said base class; and
storage attribute for storing said attribute data
and said second attribute data.

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17. The system according to claim 16, further
comprising:

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a first index defined for and associated with said attribute;

a second index defined for and associated with said second attribute;

5 said storage attribute for storing said attribute data with said first index; and

 said storage attribute for storing said second attribute data with said second index.

10 18. The system according to claim 12, further comprising:

 an index defined for and associated with said attribute; and

15 said base class for storing said attribute data for said attribute with said index.

19. The system according to claim 18, further comprising:

20 a method being defined that needs to act on all attribute data of an object; and

 said method being defined only for said base class, wherein said method acts on attribute data stored in said storage attribute.

25 20. The system according to claim 18, further comprising:

 a write object method being defined to write all object attribute data; and

30 said method being defined only for said base class, wherein said method will write all data stored in said storage attribute.

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21. The system according to claim 12, further comprising:

a method being defined that needs to act on all attribute data of an object; and

5 said method being defined only for said base class, wherein said method acts on said attribute data.

22. The system according to claim 12, further comprising said base class being defined within said object, said
10 base class being a superclass of said object.

23. A computer program product in a data processing system for executing and processing data in an object oriented environment, said product comprising:

15 instruction means for defining a base class and a subclass within an object, said object defined within said object oriented environment;

instruction means for defining an attribute within said subclass; and

20 instruction means for storing, within said base class, attribute data defined for said attribute, wherein said attribute data is not stored within said subclass.

24. The product according to claim 23, further
25 comprising instruction means for storing only within said base class said attribute data for said attribute.

25. The product according to claim 23, further comprising:

30 instruction means for defining a storage attribute within said base class; and

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instruction means for storing within storage attribute said attribute data.

26. The product according to claim 23, further comprising:

instruction means for defining a second subclass, wherein said subclass is a superclass to said second subclass;

instruction means for defining a second attribute within said second subclass; and

instruction means for storing within said base class second attribute data for said second attribute, wherein said second attribute data is not stored within said second subclass or said subclass.

27. The product according to claim 26, further comprising:

instruction means for defining a storage attribute within said base class; and

instruction means for storing within storage attribute said attribute data and said second attribute data.

28. The product according to claim 27, further comprising:

instruction means for defining a first index for and associating it with said attribute;

instruction means for defining a second index for and associating it with said second attribute;

instruction means for storing within said storage attribute said attribute data with said first index; and

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instruction means for storing within said storage attribute said second attribute data with said second index.

- 5 29. The product according to claim 23, further comprising:

instruction means for defining an index for and associating it with said attribute; and

- 10 instruction means for storing within said base class said attribute data for said attribute with said index.

30. The product according to claim 29, further comprising:

- 15 instruction means for defining a method that needs to act on all attribute data of an object; and

instruction means for defining said method only for said base class, wherein said method acts on attribute data stored in said storage attribute.

- 20 31. The product according to claim 29, further comprising:

instruction means for defining a write object method to write all object attribute data; and

- 25 instruction means for defining said method only for said base class, wherein said method will write all data stored in said storage attribute.

32. The product according to claim 23, further comprising:

- 30 instruction means for defining a method that needs to act on all attribute data of an object; and

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instruction means for defining said method only for said base class, wherein said method acts on said attribute data.

- 5 33. The product according to claim 23, further comprising instruction means for defining said base class within said object, said base class being a superclass of said object.

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